

Marine Fisheries
A Regional Perspective
Gulf of Mexico

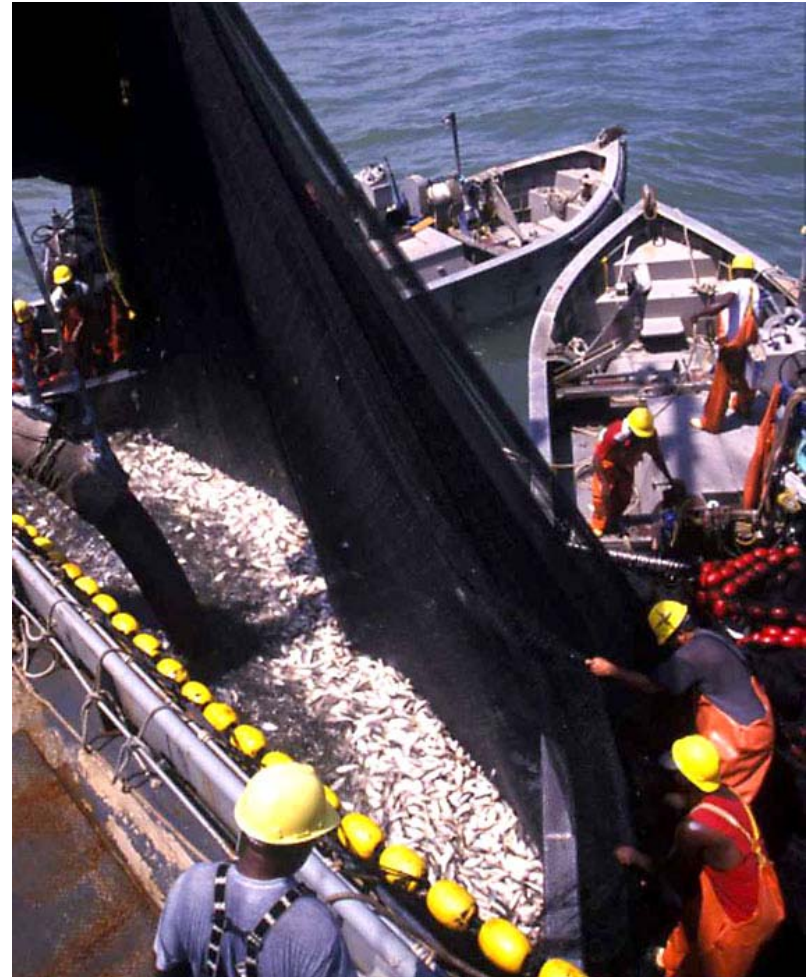
Larry B. Simpson

Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission



IMPORTANCE OF FISH AND SHELLFISH

- 2001 commercial landings = 9.8 billion pounds worth \$3.3 billion dockside
- Fish and shellfish contributed \$27.8 billion to the gross national product
- The commercial fishing industry employs 170,000 people nationwide



IMPORTANCE OF FISH AND SHELLFISH

- Also in 2001, ten million marine recreational fishermen harvested 254.2 million pounds of fish and shellfish
- This represented 75 million fishing trips
- Marine recreational fishing added \$25 billion to the GNP



GULF OF MEXICO



GULF OF MEXICO

- 82% of the nation's shrimp are caught in Gulf waters



- 80% of the nation's coastal wetlands are in the Gulf of Mexico

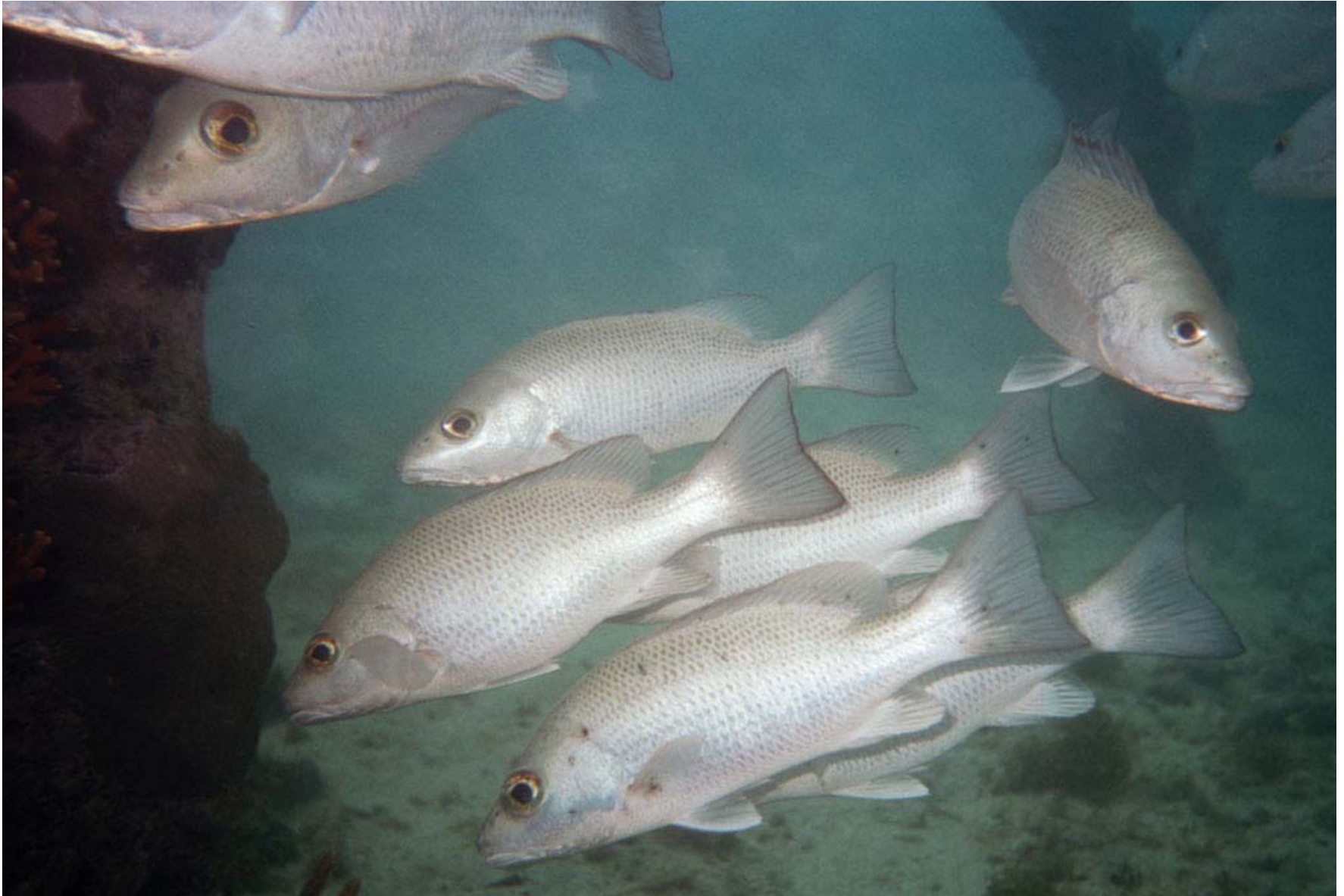
GULF OF MEXICO

- In 2001, recreational fishermen took 26 million trips in the Gulf of Mexico



- These anglers caught 36.5% of the 444.2 million recreational caught fish

FISHERIES IS WORTHY WORK



BUDGET DEFICITS

Alabama	\$500 million
Louisiana	\$ 86 million
Mississippi	\$ 97 million
Florida	\$ 321 million
Texas	\$4.95 billion

FRESHWATER INFLOW

Freshwater is extremely important since 98% of the recreational and commercially caught species in the

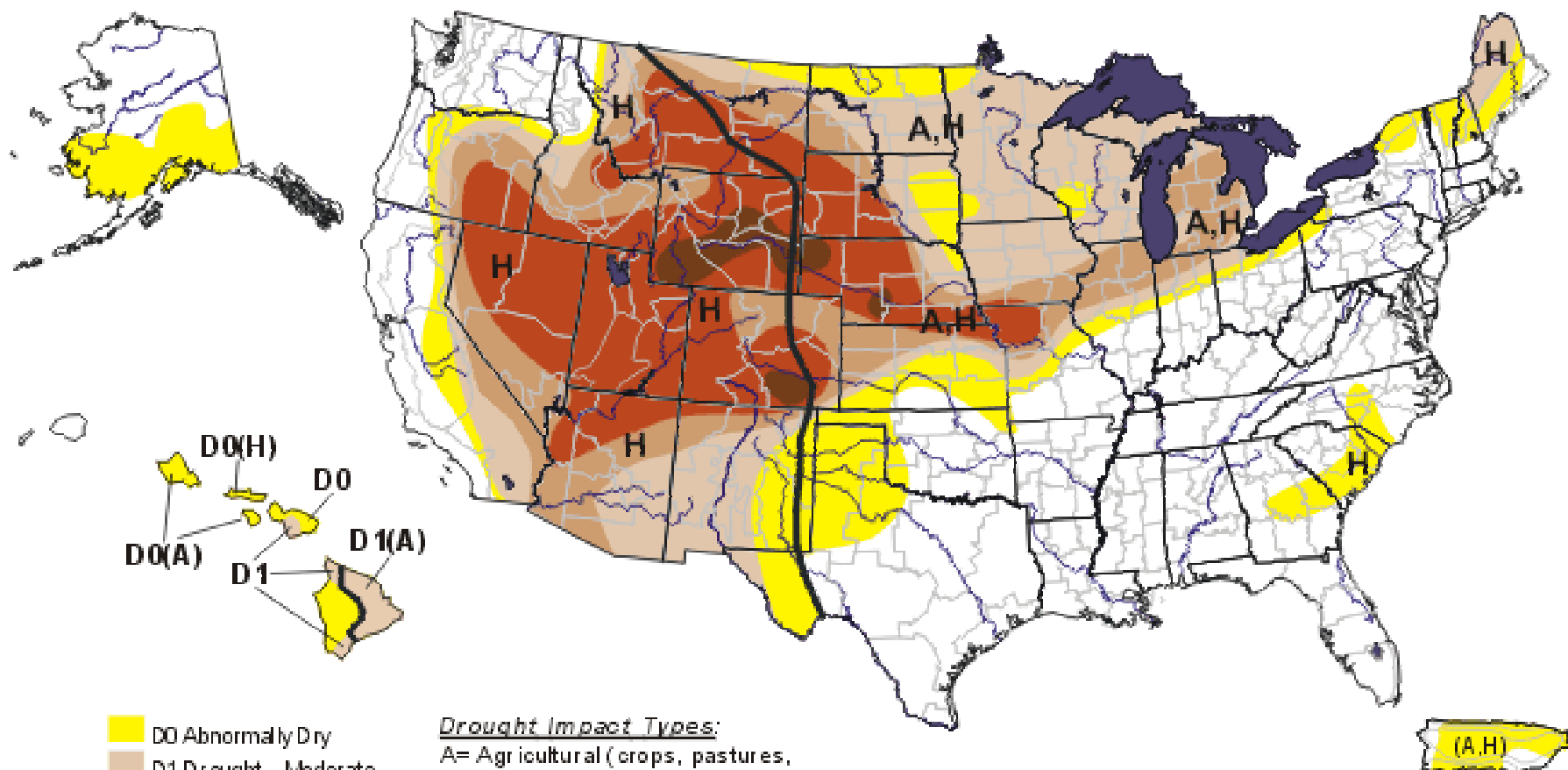


Gulf of Mexico spend some portion of their life in estuaries

U.S. Drought Monitor

March 18, 2003

Valid 7 a.m. EST



- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought—Moderate
- D2 Drought—Severe
- D3 Drought—Extreme
- D4 Drought—Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- A= Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H= Hydrological (water)
- Delineates dominant impacts (No type = both impacts)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, March 20, 2003

Author: Richard Heim/Candace Tankersley, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC

FRESHWATER INFLOW

Water managers must recognize the need for environmental flows and the importance of freshwater to estuaries and living marine resources

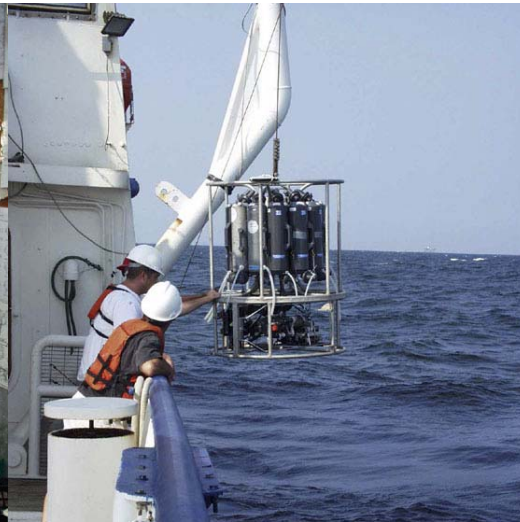
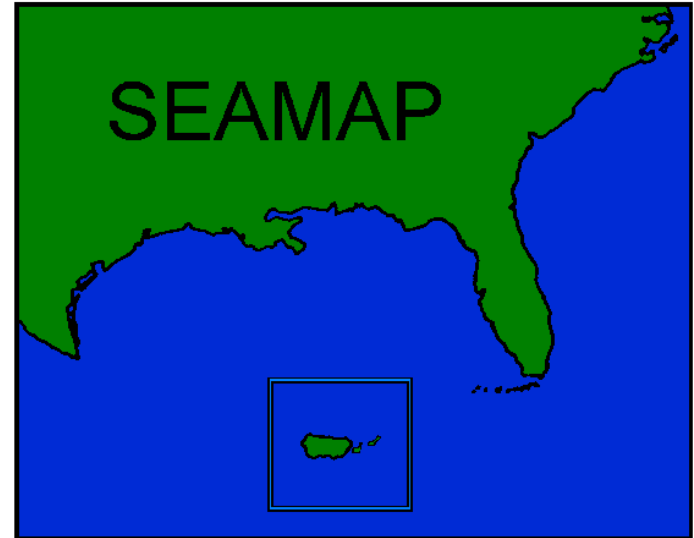
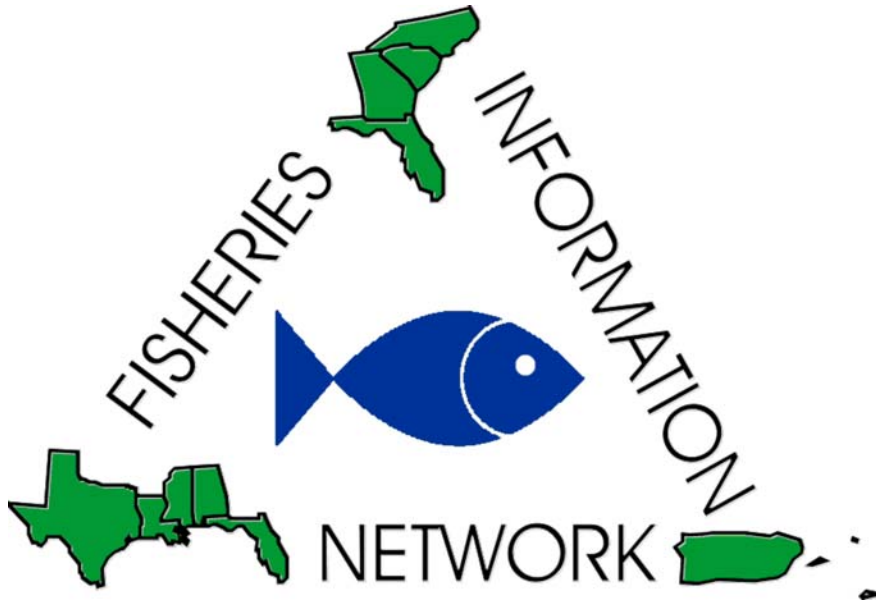


LIMITED ENTRY

- Shrimp license buy backs
- Trap limitations
- Gear phase outs
- Individual fisheries quotas



DATA

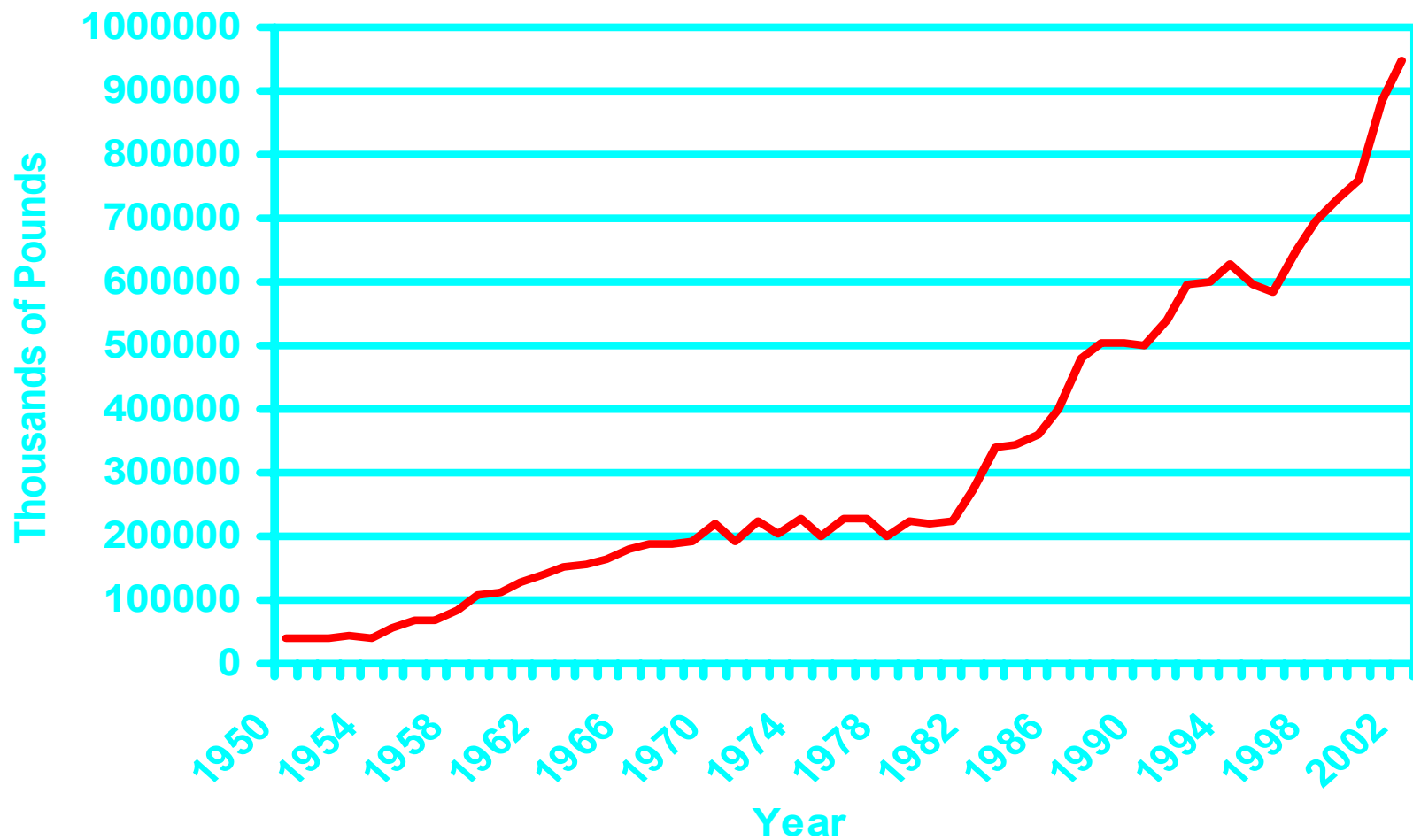


ALLOCATION



IMPORTS

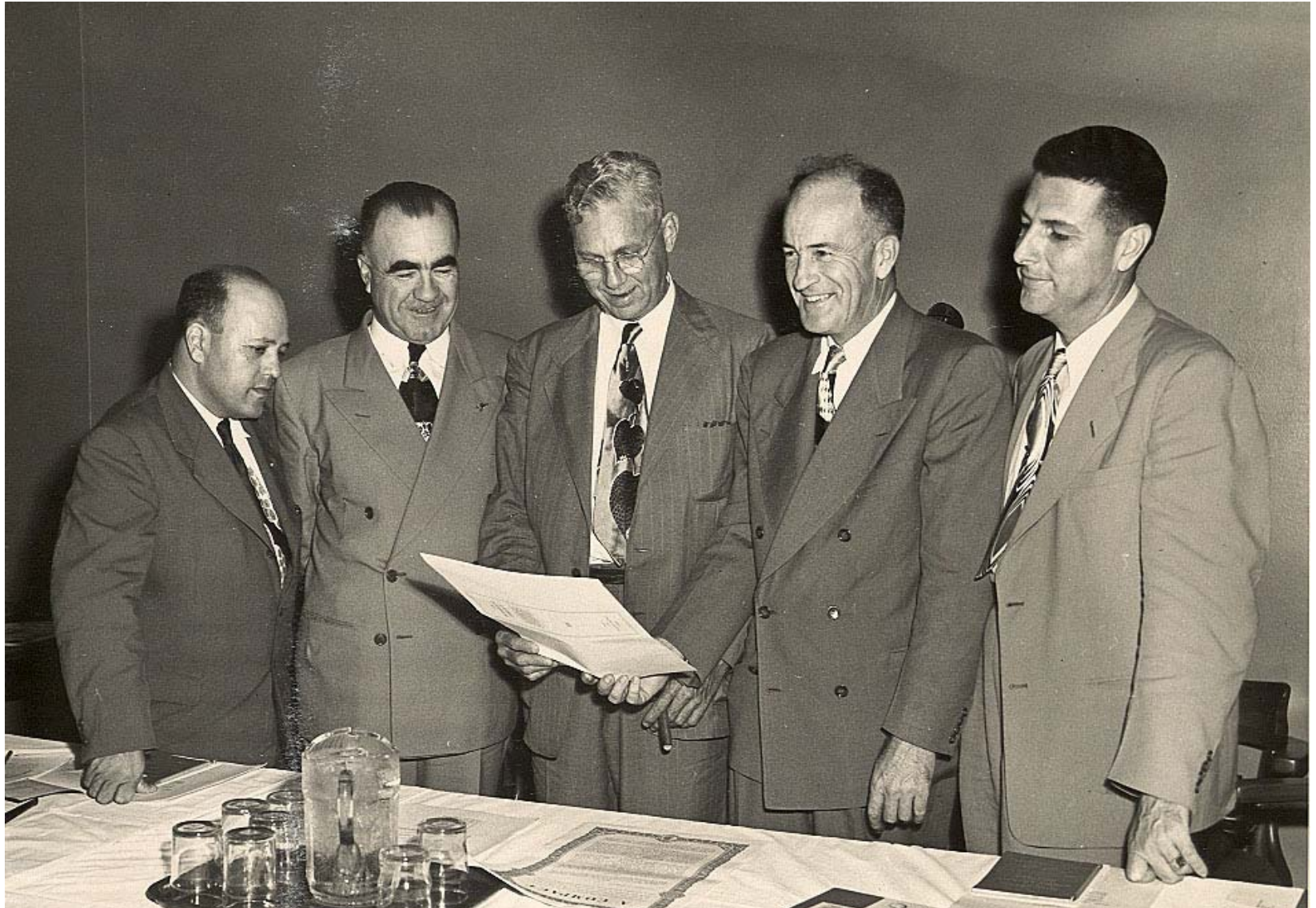
Shrimp



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION



COOPERATION

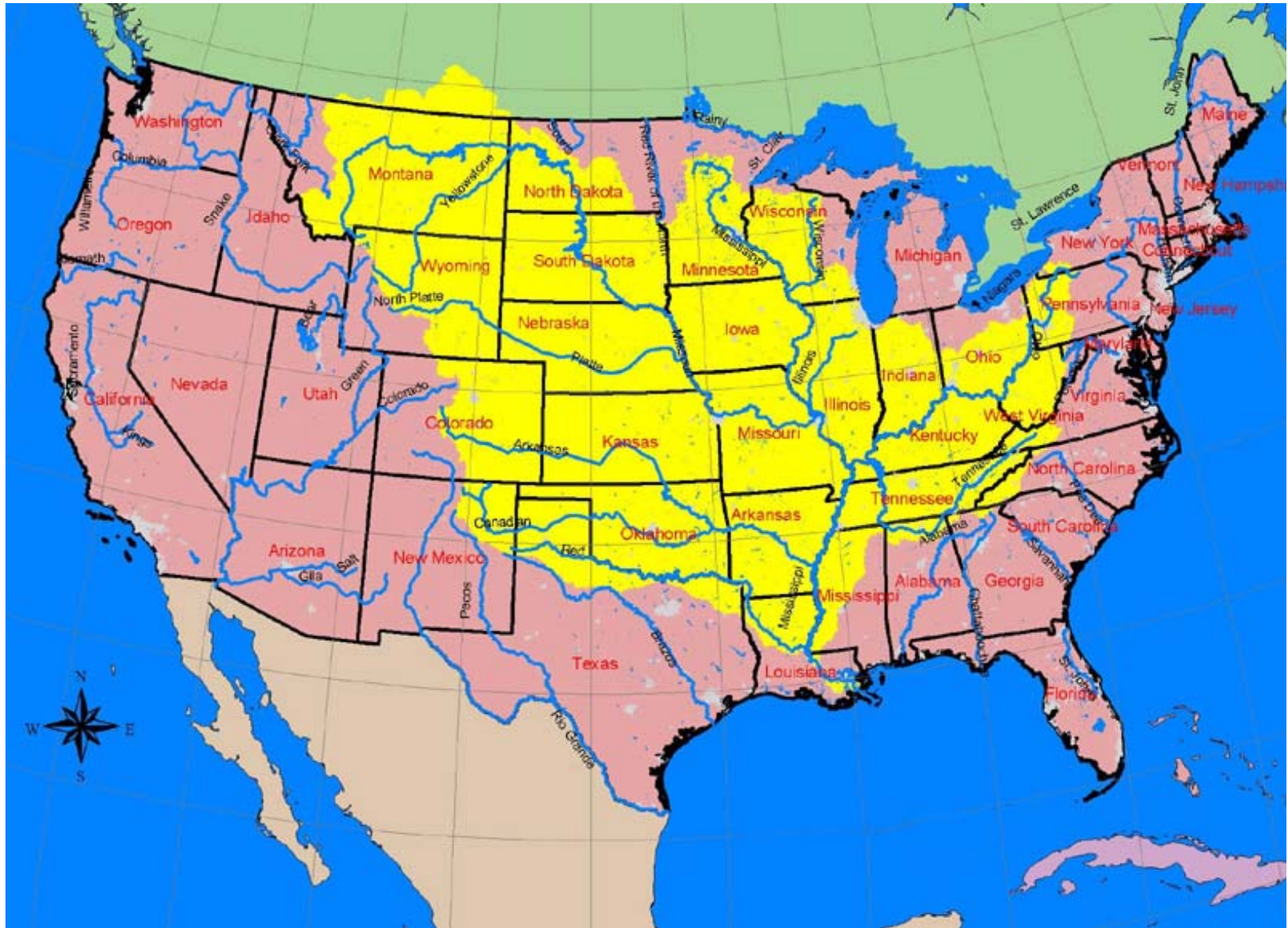


OCS REVENUE

Funds from OCS activities should be reinvested into renewable resources like fisheries, habitat and wildlife



MISSISSIPPI RIVER



HYPOXIA

In 2002, the hypoxic zone was more than 8,500 sq. miles

